

Leek
Leek Urban District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1956



PREPARED BY :

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AND

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Chief Public Health Inspector



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Health Department,

Leek.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LEEK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1956, during which year Dr. Arthur Collis Hallowes, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (T.C. Dub.), L.M. (Rotunda), was your Medical Officer of Health. In this report I have included a table of comparative statistics to show the main changes over the last few years.

The population decreased by a small number in 1956 continuing the downward trend of 1954 and 1955 to give a figure of 18,970 which is slightly greater than in 1953. The density of the population was 4.4 persons per acre.

One of the causes of the fall in population is probably the birth rate which, adjusted for the type of population, is 13.7. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1956 was 15.7. The number of births allocated to the area was 250 which is a decrease of 7 over 1955.

The number of deaths in 1956 was 222—a considerable decrease over the figure for 1955 (251). The death rate was the lowest for some years and is very similar to the national figure.

The still-birth rate for Leek (34.7) was considerably higher than the national figure (23.0). We are of course dealing with small numbers which makes even one still-birth give a disproportionate effect. The number of still-births does not alter much over the years. The dominant cause is difficult labour; the prevention therefore is by adequate ante-natal care.

Infantile mortality was the highest for some years—at 36 per 1,000 live births. When one studies the causes of death, it is seen that many of these deaths are practically impossible to prevent. The majority of these deaths occur in the first four weeks of life.

Heart disease and cancer remain the principal causes of all deaths. 34.7% of deaths were due to heart disease, a figure only slightly greater than the national 32.8%. Cancer caused 19.4% of deaths, again a slightly greater figure than the national one of 17.3%. Cancer of the lung caused 1.8% of all deaths, nearly half the national figure of 3.5%.

Accidents at home or around about the home caused 10 deaths in 1956—a not insignificant figure. Of this number, 4 were due to burns and 6 to falls (mainly in the very old). Road accidents produced no deaths during the year. Home safety would therefore appear to be an important matter in Leek.

Section E of the report shows the position of housing and the progress made during the year.

The bacteriological quality of the water supplies improved in 1956, 7 unsatisfactory samples were obtained, compared to 26 in 1955. Ordinary chemical analysis tests were satisfactory, apart from free chlorine, which was found only in a small quantity in one of five samples taken.

Measles was in epidemic proportions in the beginning of 1956, as is to be expected each two years approximately. Scarlet fever and whooping cough produced a number of cases. The position regarding immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and smallpox is not satisfactory:—

44% of children approximately were immunised against whooping cough.

40% of children approximately were immunised against diphtheria.

10% of children approximately were vaccinated against smallpox.

At least 75% of children should receive protection against these diseases, preferably 100%. Though it is the County Council's responsibility to see that vaccination and immunisation services are provided, it is surely the parents' duty to see that their children receive these protective measures.

During 1956, immunisation against poliomyelitis commenced, but only a small number of children received injections.

The number of tuberculosis cases increased by 7 during the year; and nationally also there appears to be no great reduction in the number of cases notified. Mass radiography is a valuable service, but the hard core of ignorant, disinterested people always escapes it, and it is this body that contains most cases and continues to infect others. Propaganda does not affect these people. It is my opinion that each person over 14 should be X-rayed compulsorily at regular intervals.

During 1956, a change of designation occurred for Sanitary Inspectors, who became Public Health Inspectors—a term probably better suited to describe their duties.

The Food Hygiene Regulations came into force in 1956—measures to improve the deplorably low standards in food preparation and cleanliness.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, was passed during the year—an Act to lessen the amount of smoke pollution which occurs—pollution which causes great damage and discomfort and danger to health.

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act which deals with compulsory removal to proper accommodation of persons in need of care and attention. However the department dealt with two cases, one relating to an old lady of 91 years of age who was definitely in need of care and attention and who voluntarily agreed to go into hospital, and in the second the Health Dept. arranged proper after care and attention on discharge of an old person from hospital.

Your Medical Officer of Health during 1956, Dr. A. C. Hal-
lowes, wishes to express his appreciation for the able assistance
given during the year by the Public Health Inspectors and Health
Department staff; and in the preparation of sections D, E, and F,
of this report, I am also indebted.

P. G. CANNON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.
GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	4,306
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1956) ...	18,970
Number of persons per acre	4.4
Number of persons per house	3.4
Number of inhabited houses at the end of the year	6,400
Rateable value at 31st March, 1957	£182,568
Product of a penny rate at 31st March, 1957 (estimate)	£787 8s. 7d

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	Female	Total
Live births	128	122	250
(Illegitimate births)	(4)	(4)	(8)
Illegitimacy rate = 32 per 1,000 live births.			
Illegitimacy rate (England & Wales) = 46.0.			
Birth rate per 1,000 population = 13.2.			
Adjusted birth rate = 13.7.			
	(comparability factor 1.04)		
Birth rate (England and Wales) = 15.7.			
	(the highest rate since 1950).		

Note on Adjusted Birth Rate.

Local birth rates are usually expressed in terms of popu-
lation. These Populations are estimated by the Registrar
General and comprise persons of all ages, including many who
quite obviously have no influence on the reproductive process.
These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a pre-
ponderance of them in the population of an area tends to lower,
and a small proportion of them to raise, the true rate. Consider-
able variation in the size of this proportion exists in different
areas and it is therefore apparent that the elimination or
standardisation of such a factor enables a truer comparison be-
tween areas.

A result on these lines is obtained through the issue by the
Registrar-General of a comparability factor for each area for use
with birth rates. The adjusted birth rate resulting from the
multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by its com-
parability factor may be regarded as being comparable with the
adjusted rate of any other area or with the crude rate for England
and Wales.

	Male	Female	Total
Still births	3	6	9
(Illegitimate)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)			= 34.7
Still birth rate (England and Wales)			= 23.6
Maternal mortality	NIL.		

	Male	Female	Total
Infantile mortality —(deaths of infants under 1 year of age) ...	6	3	9
(Illegitimate)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Infantile mortality rate			= 36.0.
Infantile mortality rate (England and Wales)			= 23.8 (the lowest annual rate ever recorded in this country)

	Male	Female	Total
Neonatal mortality (deaths of infants under 1 weeks of age)	6	1	7
(Illegitimate)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Neonatal mortality rate			= 28.0.
Neonatal mortality rate (England and Wales)			= 16.9.

Deaths - All Ages.

Male ...	108	Female ...	114	Total ...	222.
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population					= 11.7
Adjusted death rate (comparable to England and Wales)					= 11.93
					(comparability factor 1.02)
Death rate (England and Wales)					= 11.7

Note.—This comparability factor is obtained and used on similar principle to that for comparability factor for births.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	4	9
„ „ lung, bronchus ...	1	3	4
„ „ breast	—	1	1
„ „ uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	15	11	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	16	30
Coronary disease, angina	20	13	33
Other heart disease	20	24	44
Other circulatory disease	6	5	11
Pneumonia	3	4	7
Bronchitis	7	4	11
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
Congenital malformations	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6	16	22
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—

All other accidents	1	6	10
Suicide	1	2	3
	108	111	222

Note: (i) The 3 deaths due to suicide were in a male, aged 40, by a gunshot wound; in a female aged 60, from barbiturate poisoning and in a female, aged 82, from coal gas poisoning.

(ii) The death due to acute gastroenteritis was in a male, aged 72.

(iii) A table showing details of accidental deaths appears on this page.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN 1956.

Female	81	Toxaemia due to severe accidental burns.
„	82	Hypostatic pneumonia following a fractured femur through an accidental fall.
Male	35	Toxaemia as a result of 3rd degree burns of chest and abdomen caused through his clothing catching fire whilst in bed, from a cause unknown.*
Female	13	Acute haemorrhagic pancreatitis. Extensive third degree burns (accidental). (Burns to legs; Night-dress from coal fire).
„	86	Hypostatic pneumonia following a fractured femur through an accidental fall.
„	76	Accidental burns (found in coal house in flames when using lighted candle).
Male	70	Coronary embolism due to shock following fracture of right humerus caused by an accidental fall.
„	78	Degenerative myocardial failure accelerated by fracture of the neck of the right femur caused by an accidental fall.
Female	79	Myocarditis due to senility accelerated by fracture of right femur caused by a fall at home.
Male	84	Cardiac failure aggravated by fracture of neck of left femur caused by a fall.

SUMMARY. 10 deaths, 4 male, 6 female, occurred in 1956.

Burns caused 4 deaths, at ages 13, 35, 76 and 84 years.

Falls caused ultimately 6 deaths, at ages 70, 78, 79, 82, 84 and 86 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Male	Age	3 hours	Prematurity (29 weeks gestation).
„	„	10 hours	Primary atelectasis. Intrathoracic hernia
„	„	1 week	Cerebral haemorrhage.

..	..	3 days	Pneumonia. Toxaemia of pregnancy of mother.
..	..	4 day	Prematurity (Birth weight 2 lbs. 10 ozs.)
..	..	3 weeks	Broncho pneumonia. Prematurity.
..	..	3 months	Spina bifida.
Female	..	2 months	Capillary bronchitis.
..	..	9 hours	Congenital atelectasis. Gross enlargement of liver.

Note: This gives a figure of 7 males and 2 females which does not agree with the Registrar General's figure of 6 males and 2 females; however, the total number corresponds, therefore rates as calculated are not affected.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

1. Arthur Collis Hallows, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (T.C. Dub.), L.M. (Rotunda), Medical Officer of Health (part time).
2. James Rowbotham, M.P.H.L.A., Assoc. M.C.T., M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health Inspector.
3. Edgar Norris Whithead, M.P.H.L.A., Public Health Inspector.

The Urban District Council is the sanitary authority responsible for the environmental services.

The local authority has no major responsibilities under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The sanitary administration of the district has not been altered by it. The County Council is both Local Health and Local Sanitary Authority as well as Local Education Authority. It has assumed new and diverse responsibilities under the Act. It is responsible for the following services: maternity and child welfare, domiciliary midwifery, vaccination and immunisation, an ambulance service, a health visiting service, the administration of the Mental Services, "care and after care" and the provision of home nursing and "home helps." Section 24 of the Act imposes on the County Council the duty of providing Health Centres.

The following are the principal services provided.

1. Ambulance Services (Section 27).

There are 7 ambulances and a staff of 19, consisting of 1 officer in charge and 18 drivers. The local ambulance station is situated on Council premises, namely the Town Yard; premises made available for the use of the Local Health Authority.

2. Laboratory Facilities. (Part, Section 26).

Leek is served by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. It is a component of a free national

laboratory service for England and Wales. The work of the Laboratory is designed to assist the Medical Officer of Health and the general practitioners, in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. Its activities include the examination of throat and nose swabs, sputum, blood and excreta of human origin as aids to diagnosis of suspected or actual infectious diseases. Its sanitary work includes mainly the bacteriological examination of drinking water and sewage, the sampling of milk for cleanliness and for the presence of the tubercle bacillus and other pathogenic organisms, and the sampling of ice cream, synthetic cream, and shellfish as distributed to the user or consumer. Its staff is available to participate in the investigation of outbreaks of infectious disease in the area which it serves, with the general aim of preventing or controlling disease.

During 1956, the laboratory service investigated 83 specimens of sputum submitted for examination for the tubercle bacillus by the Chest Physician. All the specimens were examined by direct microscopy and 3 were found to be positive. 75 were examined by cultural methods and of these 6 were found to be positive for the tubercle bacillus. 22 throat swabs were sent to the laboratory for examination during the year. 21 specimens of sputum were sent by the medical practitioners, who also requested examination of 21 specimens of urine; 9 specimens of blood were sent to help diagnosis of possible enteric or abortus fever or food poisoning. 4 other human specimens were examined.

The laboratory continues to report on the results of general bacteriological tests and biological tests for tuberculosis, in samples of milk submitted to it by the County Council Milk Sampling Officer—milk sold in the Urban District. During the year, 161 samples were tested by methylene blue test (a test for ordinary bacteriological cleanliness). 20 samples (12.4%) failed to pass this test. Over 56% of these failures were in ordinary tuberculin tested milk, but failures also occurred in undesignated and tuberculin tested pasteurised milks. Pasteurisation—as measured by the phosphatase test—was 100% effective—on the 64 specimens examined. Sterilised milk was very satisfactory—all specimens examined (6) passed the turbidity test.

Biological tests for the presence of tubercle bacilli were carried out on 61 milk samples—mainly on ordinary tuberculin tested milk (for tuberculin tested milk is much more likely to contain tubercle bacilli than pasteurised or sterilised milk). No tubercle bacilli were found.

Milk has certainly improved in quality, but obviously there is need for constant vigilance in the handling and bottling of milk, particularly in warm weather conditions.

A table showing the detailed result appears on page ---.

The laboratory distributes in the prevention of disease, diphtheria prophylactic, and calf lymph for smallpox vaccination.

It makes available measles prophylactic for the passive immunisation of contacts and distributes outfits for the collection of pathological material.

3. Maternity, Home Nursing and Domestic Help Services. (Sections 23, 25 and 29).

There are three County Council midwives—two full time and one part time. Leek also has two district nurses. The Leek Area Health Committee, under Section 29, is responsible for the appointment of domestic helps. Their function is to give assistance in the home during the incapacity of a wife or mother, and they do not undertake any duties of a nursing character.

The County Council is responsible for other special health services—Maternity and Child Welfare and the School Medical Service. There are three Health Visitors available for Ante-Natal work and for the supervision of nursing mothers and children. Under the direction of the Chest Physician, all have duties of visiting the tuberculous.

4. Hospitals.

The following hospitals are available for various forms of treatment: general, acute and chronic, sanatoria, mental and infectious diseases—Bucknall Hospital; Memorial Hospital, Leek; North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary; Haywood Hospital; Orthopaedic Hospital, Hartshill; Longton Cottage Hospital; City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent; Moorlands Hospital, Leek; Cheadle Hospital; Westcliffe Hospital, Chell; Gromdslow Sanatorium and Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, Loggerheads, nr. Market Drayton; St. Edward's Hospital, Leek; Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital; Linwood Hospital, Newcastle and Stanfield Hospital, Burslem (both for chronic sick). All are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board through the local Area Management Committees. Geographical hospital boundaries have thus been greatly widened by the Regional arrangements under the Act, and as far as this district is concerned, have made the problem of finding hospital accommodation for the acutely sick a little less difficult than in many parts of the country. The problem of the disposal of the chronic sick has increased.

Maternity cases, in an emergency, are received at the City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent. Part of the maternity wing of the Haywood Hospital is now available for normal cases without charge and part is still on a fee-paying basis (private beds).

5. Mortuary.

The Council's mortuary is situated in Condlyffe Road. Essential equipment is provided by the local authority and a mortuary attendant is available when required. The mortuary was used for 28 persons during 1956, and 6 post mortems were performed.

SECTION C.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases.

The incidence of infectious disease has, on the whole, followed the pattern of preceding years. The total number of original notifications in 1956, apart from tuberculosis, was 389. Four only of these were unconfirmed – all food poisoning suspects. The majority of notifications were received in the first quarter – 295, – 58, 11 and 25 were received in 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters respectively.

The details of the infectious diseases notified appear in tabular form on page . . .

There are ample hospital facilities at Bucknall Isolation Hospital within the area of the Stoke-on-Trent Hospital Management Committee, for the reception of all types of infectious disease. Admission is usually arranged by the local medical practitioners and transport is undertaken by the local Ambulance Service.

Scarlet fever produced 20 cases in 1956. 18 of these were in the age group 2 – 9 years, one was aged 11, the other was aged 20.

Some of these cases were admitted to hospital, though Scarlet Fever is a mild illness at the present time. The cases were scattered over the year, and the district.

Whooping Cough. 10 cases were notified in the year; 3 in the first and 12 in the last quarter. 50% of cases were in the age group 5 – 9 years and all cases were less than 10 years old. It is important for parents to remember that this disease can be prevented or at least considerably reduced in severity by active immunisation which can be carried out by the general practitioners or at the Welfare Clinic.

It is recommended that infants receive 3 injections, with one month between each, starting at age of 3 months, with a reinforcing dose at the age of 2 years. During 1956, 161 children received a full course of primary immunisation, of which 162 were of pre-school age; 112 of these were under 1 year. In addition 19 children, 6 of pre school age received "booster" injections.

No Case of Diphtheria was notified in 1956 – a tribute to the efficacy of the immunisation carried out against this disease. The emphasis is constantly upon its prevention by this means. A state of immunity is achieved by a total of two injections given at the recommended ages of 7 and 8 months; and a booster dose should be given at age 5, 8 and 11 years. The immunisation arrangements are similar to those for whooping cough. In 1956, 162 children of pre school age (102 of under 1 year) and 18 of school age received primary immunisation. 157 children between one and fourteen years of age received reinforcing dosage of which 25 were aged 1 – 4 years.

Is this a satisfactory rate of immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough? 250 births occurred in 1956 and 257 in 1955. It would appear therefore that approximately 44% of children are being immunised against whooping cough and approximately 40% against diphtheria. This figure is too low to achieve a satisfactory state of immunity in the population.

In England and Wales, 51 cases of diphtheria occurred in 1956 and there were 8 deaths due to the disease.

No cases of **smallpox** occurred in England and Wales in 1956. This is due to the vigilance of health authorities at points of entry to this country, for the numbers of vaccinations against smallpox are very low.

58 children were vaccinated against smallpox in 1956 in Leek. Of these 41 were under 1 year of age, 1 was aged 1, 3 were aged 2—4, 2 were aged 5—14 and 11 were aged 15 or over. The older age groups are done presumably because of emigration or travel to other countries. In addition 24 persons were re-vaccinated.

Is this rate of vaccination satisfactory? With approximately 250 births a year, only 41 children have been vaccinated against smallpox i.e. 16%. This figure again is too low. If smallpox occurred in the district, most of the population would have to be vaccinated.

Vaccination is recommended at the age of 6 months. It is a simple procedure, and gives no ill effects at this age, using modern technique.

If we sum up the whole position regarding immunisation, an infant should be immunised against whooping cough at 3, 4 and 5 months; should be vaccinated against smallpox at age 6 months; should be immunised against diphtheria at age 7 and 8 months; a booster against whooping cough should be given at the age 2 years and boosters against diphtheria at 5, 8 and 11 years. Re-vaccination against smallpox could be done each 4—5 years.

One case only of **acute poliomyelitis** occurred in 1956—of paralytic type in a man of 35, who was admitted to Bucknall Hospital on 19th August.

Measles produced the majority of notifications during the year—335. Of these 285 were in the first quarter and the remainder in the second quarter. In the well nutritioned child, measles is usually not a severe illness.

Dysentery cases were few in 1956—5 were notified in July and August. Two only of these were confirmed—both of Sonne type.

All were treated at home.

Acute pneumonia continues to occur—usually in the young and the old, though modern treatment has greatly reduced the mortality. Our cases were aged, 2, 25, 48 and 59 years.

Erysipelas produced 2 cases, aged 35, 60 and 81 respectively. It is a condition of invasion of the skin tissues by the haemolytic streptococcus—a similar organism to that which causes scarlet fever. With penicillin and the sulphonamides it can be quickly resolved. All were treated at home.

5 cases of **food poisoning** were notified in 1956. One only of these was confirmed—a case which occurred in May in a boy of five months. The source of infection was not traced. The organism concerned was *Salmonella typhimurium*.

The other 4 cases were a single family (parents and two children) which developed illness in early October.

No food poisoning organisms were found in the specimens examined.

During 1956, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education issued a memorandum on the closure of schools and suggested exclusion from school on account of infectious illness. The main points are shewn in a table on page —.

The position regarding tuberculosis did not improve in 1956. Seven new cases were notified to give a total figure on the Register at the end of 1956 of 85 persons i.e. 1.5 cases per 1,000 of the population, which cannot be considered a low figure.

The Health Visitors provided in the year 11 progress reports on patients already on the Register and 1 report upon environmental conditions on a patient first diagnosed in 1956. Progress reports should be submitted on each patient each six months, and each new patient should be visited.

Under the Anthrax Order of 1938, action was taken regarding a suspected case in one cow, but the disease was not confirmed.

I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer for the figures relating to the number of children in Leek immunised or vaccinated in 1956.

RETAIL MILK SAMPLES LEEK U.D.

	Methylene Blue		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Examined	
	Total	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	for T.B.	
	Taken	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Neg. Pos.
Undesignated	19	13	6	—	—	—	—	17
Tuberculin								
Tested	78	67	11	—	—	—	—	13 —
T.T. Past.	37	34	3	37	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	27	27	—	27	—	—	—	1 —
Sterilised	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
	167	141	26	64	6	—	61	—

INCUBATION & EXCLUSION PERIODS OF THE COMMONER INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND SCHOOL STAFF

PERIOD OF EXCLUSION

	Usual incubation period (days)	Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days)	PATIENTS	Contacts, i.e. the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.
SCARLET FEVER (and streptococcal sore throat) (Variants of the same disease).	2 — 5	1 — 2	3 weeks, plus 7 days after discharge from hospital or from home isolation. (Unless "cold in the head," discharge from the nose or ear, sore throat, or septic spots be present, which condition must be cured before return to school).	Children—no exclusion. Persons engaged in the preparation or service of school meals to be excluded until Medical Officer of Health certifies that they may resume work.
DIPHTHERIA	2 — 5	—	Until pronounced by a medical practitioner to be fit and free from infection.	At least 7 days. Return to school should not be permitted until bacteriological examination has proved negative.
MEASLES	10 — 15	3 — 4	10 days after the appearance of the rash if child appears well.	Children under 5 years of age should be excluded for 14 days from the date of appearance of the rash in the last case in the house. Other contacts can attend school. Any contact suffering from a cough, cold, chill or red eyes should be immediately excluded. A child who is known with certainty to have had the disease need not be excluded.
GERMAN MEASLES	14 — 21	0 — 2	7 days from the appearance of the rash.	None.

PERIOD OF EXCLUSION

	Usual incubation period (days)	Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days)	PATIENTS	Contacts, i.e. the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.
WHOOPING COUGH	7—10	—	28 days from the beginning of the characteristic cough	(Children under 7 years of age should be excluded for 21 days from the date of onset of the disease in the last case in the house. A child who is known with certainty to have had the disease need not be excluded.)
MUMPS	12—25	—	7 days from the subsidence of all swelling.	None.
CHICKEN POX	11—21	0—2	14 days from the date of appearance of the rash.	None.
POLLIOMYELITIS	7—14	—	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-right: 10px;"> <p>At least 6 weeks</p> <p>Will usually require a much longer period for recovery</p> </div> <div style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0 10px;">}</div> </div>	At least 21 days.
ENCEPHALITIS	4—30	—		
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	2—10	—		
ALIMENTARY INFECTIONS (Enteric fever, dysentery, food poisoning).	—	—	Until declared fit by Medical Officer of Health or 6 negative stools for enteric and 3 negative stools for dysentery and food poisoning.	Contacts who have positive stools though no illness should be excluded until stools negative (3 specimens).

NOTE:—STAFF WHO DEVELOP OR ARE IN CONTACT WITH STAPHYLOCOCCAL INFECTIONS likely to cause food poisoning, e.g. septic infections of the hands, forearms and face, should be immediately suspended from duty and not permitted to resume work until the Medical Officer of Health has stated that it is reasonably safe for them to do so.

TUBERCULOSIS IN LEEK

	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on Register at 31 . 12 . 55	42	5	19	12	78
Number of cases added during the year	3	1	2	1	7
Number of cases removed during the year	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases on Register at 31 . 12 . 56	45	6	21	13	85

CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER

CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER

New notifications : 7

Nil

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Numbers of all cases of infectious and other notifiable diseases originally notified, and of the final numbers according to sex and age after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Numbers originally notified Total (All Ages)				Scarlet fever		Whooping cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (excluding rubella)		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningo- coccal infection			
				M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
								M	F	M	F										
				13	7	11	5	1	—	—	—	181	154	—	—	4	1	—	—		
Final numbers after correction																					
Under 1 year						1						7	2								
1—						2	1					9	10			1					
2— years				3		1						20	21								
3—				1	2	1	1					20	13								
4—				2			1					27	18								
5—9				7	3	6	2					97	86			1					
10—14					1							1	4								
15—24					1			1													
25 and over																					
Age unknown																					
Total (All Ages)				13	7	11	5	1	—	—	—	181	154	—	—	2	—	—	—		
Numbers originally notified Total (All Ages)				Ac. pneumonia		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid fever		Paratyphoid fevers		Erysipelas		Food poisoning			
				M	F	M	F	Infective		Post-infectious		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
								M	F	M	F										
				3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2		
Final numbers after correction																					
Under 5 years				1														1			
5—14 years																					
15—44				1													1				
45—64				1	1												1				
65 and over																	1				
Age unknown																					
Total (all ages)				3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—		
Numbers originally notified Total (All Ages)				Tuberculosis										Other notifiable diseases		Original		Final			
				Respiratory		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other													
				M	F	M	F	M	F							M	F	M	F		
				3	2	—	—	1	1												
Final numbers after correction																					
5—14 years								1													
15—24																					
25—44					1																
45—64				3	1																
65 and over																					
Age unknown																					
Total (All Ages)				3	2	—	—	1	1												
Numbers originally notified Total (All Ages)				Puerperal pyrexia		Ophthalmia neonatorum															
				M	F	M	F														

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Population	19,210	18,880	18,930	19,040	19,020	18,970
No. of inhabited houses	5,691	5,798	5,875	5,961	6,117	6,124
No. of live births	269	243	280	229	257	250
Birth rate (crude)	14.0	12.9	14.8	12.0	13.5	13.2
No. of still births	9	9	6	9	4	9
Maternal mortality	—	—	2	—	—	—
Infantile mortality rate	33.5	20.6	25.0	26.2	19.5	36.0
Infant mortality (No. of deaths)	9	5	7	6	5	9
No. of deaths (all ages)	274	223	233	239	251	222
Death rate (crude)	14.3	11.8	12.3	12.6	13.2	11.7

Health Department,

10, Stockwell Street,

Leek, Staffs.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Leek Urban District Council.

Mrs. Clowes and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my twenty-third Annual Report, being for the year 1956. The report is prepared in accordance with Circular 19, 56 issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Abattoir has functioned very satisfactorily throughout the year. Meetings of the Advisory Committee were held as occasion demanded and improvements have been carried out at the request of the butchers using the facilities. It was found necessary to slightly increase the charges during the year, but even so, the number of animals killed increased by about 10%. Elsewhere in the report details are given of the carcasses inspected and carcasses and offals condemned as unfit for human consumption.

At the commencement of the year I circularised a precis of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations to the Members of the Council and all food traders who are affected by the Regulations. During the year 269 visits were made to food premises, markets and stalls for the purpose of ensuring that the regulations are being observed.

A total of 240 samples of ice-cream and other food products were submitted for analysis during the year, and the results were reported monthly to the Committee. This routine sampling has produced good results and the traders are much more hygiene conscious.

An inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government conducted one enquiry when it was proposed to make an order declaring two areas in Mill St. — Clearance Areas. The officer made a detailed examination of the properties in the areas. Subsequently we were informed that the orders had been confirmed.

There were 27 applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949 during the year, of which 25 were granted.

I am particularly pleased to record that during the year, negotiations brought to fruition the scheme for sewerage Beggars Lane. At the time of writing this report, this residential area is now connected to sewer and the nuisances that recurred each spring and summer are now finally and satisfactorily abated.

Finally, Mrs. Clowes and Gentlemen, I should like to avail myself of the opportunity here presented to thank the Staff of the Department for their continued loyalty and co-operation.

J. ROWBOTHAM,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION D.

WATER SUPPLIES :

The district obtains an ample supply of pure and wholesome water from two sources, the springs at Upperlulme and the deep borehole at Poole End.

A total of 207 samples were submitted to the Analyst during the year, 7 of which were unsatisfactory. On resampling from each of these 7 taps, the result proved satisfactory.

9 samples of water, other than drinking water, were also taken from other sources in the area.

Swimming Bath :

Regular sampling of swimming bath water was carried out during the bathing season. 27 were for bacteriological examination of which 1 was unsatisfactory and 23 were for chemical analysis, all of which were satisfactory. The 1 sample which proved unsatisfactory on bacteriological examination was taken after a very heavy bathing load and arrangements were immediately made for stepping-up the chlorine content in all such cases.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES :

There are 23 conveniences in the district 12 for men and 11 for women. These were inspected as occasion demanded during the year. It is deplorable that the public cannot use these premises more hygienically because on occasion the premises had to be specially cleansed as a result of misuse.

REFUSE COLLECTION :

A seven day collection was maintained throughout the year and the refuse disposed of by tipping on the Barnfields site. Difficulty was experienced in securing sufficient covering material, which, together with the long face exposed, made the task of rodent control more troublesome. It was inspected on 36 occasions and 5 major treatments were carried out.

There were four motor vehicles engaged solely on the collection of house refuse and 1,313 loads were removed during the year.

Salvage :

339 tons of cardboard and waste paper were salvaged and sold bringing in a total of £2,798. This is a very creditable per-

formance and an extremely useful addition to the Council's income.

The following table gives in detail the sanitary inspection of the area:—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE TOWN

1.	Premises cleansed and repaired	132
2.	Drains tested	44
3.	Drains reconstructed	6
4.	Drains repaired	19
5.	Drains cleansed	39
6.	Water closets cleansed	—
7.	„ „ repaired	10
8.	„ „ constructed	1
9.	Flushing arrangements provided	—
10.	Waste pipes altered or repaired	1
11.	Rainwater pipes repaired	7
12.	Roofs and gutters repaired	26
13.	Additional ventilation provided	—
14.	Additional light provided	—
15.	Damp conditions remedied	16
16.	Yards drained and paved	4
17.	Dustbins provided	30
18.	Fireplaces provided or repaired	2
19.	Coppers provided or repaired	—
20.	Cases of overcrowding abated	3
21.	Accumulations of manure etc., removed	7
22.	Smoke nuisances	7
23.	Cesspools cleansed	—
24.	Rooms disinfested	64
25.	Privies converted into water closets	—
26.	Staircases repaired	—
27.	Handrails provided	—
28.	Windows repaired	5
29.	Floors repaired	6
30.	Walls and ceilings repaired	15
31.	Food storage provided	—
32.	Water supply provided or repaired	2
33.	Sinks provided	4
34.	Doors repaired	2
35.	Back doors provided	—
36.	Walls pointed	11
37.	Chimney stacks repaired	8
38.	Other nuisances	11
39.	Septic tanks provided	—
40.	Houses connected to sewer and septic tanks abolished	15
41.	Persons in need of "care and attention"	4

No. of preliminary notices served	86
No. of preliminary notices complied with, without the service of statutory notices	58
No. of statutory notices served	28
No. of statutory notices complied with	28
Proceedings in Court	nil

DETAILS OF OTHER INSPECTIONS.

No. of premises disinfected where notifiable diseases have occurred	18
Nuisances reported to Health Department	175
Inspection of premises where nuisances were found	161
„ premises where no nuisances were found	11
„ premises where offensive trades are conducted	—
„ houses let in lodgings	
„ common Lodging Houses	
„ Workshops	6
„ Factories	20
„ Slaughterhouses	691
„ Dairies, Milkshops and Farms	14
„ Bakehouses	34
„ Markets and Stalls	11
„ Food Premises	220
Re-inspections after complaints	471
„ under Housing Acts	159
	<hr/> 2,024 <hr/>

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS :

The site provided by the Council has been well-maintained and is meeting a real need for those residents who cannot obtain houses or other more suitable accommodation.

A few caravans halted in the area for a duration of a day or two, but passed on and were not the subject of either nuisance or action.

RODENT CONTROL :

The Council employ one full time Rodent Operative for the destruction of Rats and Mice in business premises, private dwelling houses, public sewers and the Town Tip.

Inspections and treatments were divided as follows:—

Private Dwellings :	404 inspections
	155 treatments
Sewers :	2 maintenance treatments
3rd Party Premises :	98 inspections
	14 treatments
Town Tip :	36 inspections
	5 treatments

There has been a slight increase in the income from the treatment of third party premises, and at the end of the year we were treating six such premises on a contract basis.

SHOPS ACTS :

Four warnings were given during the year for breaches of the Shops (Hours of Closing) Act. No proceedings were instituted.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 1948.

Number of premises on register	170
Number of inspections during the year	20
Number of cases in which defects were found	6
Number of cases in which defects were remedied during the year	5

SECTION E. HOUSING.

Inspections and action under our slum clearance programme occupied a large portion of our time during the year.

There were two compulsory purchase orders made—Areas C and F, Mill St., which were the subject of an official enquiry. Area No. 1 Belle Vue comprising 8 houses was also declared a Clearance Area. During the year, Area E, Mill St. and a small area in Ashbourne Rd. were demolished. Action under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 was taken in respect of one house in Market St., and five houses in Cl. 3 St. Edward St. Altogether a total of 17 houses were demolished and 1 was closed during the year.

HOUSE LETTING.

During the year 52 families were rehoused which necessitated 183 visits of inspection. During the same period, the Housing Committee agreed to 20 families exchanging their accommodation for other, more suitable to their needs.

Private interviews were granted to 629 persons who wished to discuss their housing problems.

At December 31st 1956 there were 940 applicants for houses, flats and bungalows and a further 90 applications had been deposited and were awaiting the expiration of the qualifying period of 9 months.

It should be put on record that during the year, as previously, the Housing Committee have dealt with the task of tenant selection in a most humane way and the countless hours the members of the Committee have devoted to this work is worthy of the highest praise.

SECTION F.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949.

The register under this Regulation is made up as follows:—

53 persons registered
53 as retail purveyors
35 as retailers of bottled and sterilized milk.

FOOD SAMPLES.

79 samples of Ice Cream were taken with the following results:—

37 Grade I. 14 Grade II. 3 Grade III. 5 Grade IV.
Ice Lollies—3.

101 samples of other foodstuffs, including frozen egg (imported and locally produced) confectionery, gelatines, dried egg, egg yolk, etc., and 84 meat products, brawn, etc., and 20 other foods were taken, the results of which were satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Night inspections	68
Foodstuffs Condemned	
Assorted foodstuffs	102 tins
Bacon and Ham	27 lbs.
Cheese	2 lbs.
Margarine	14 lbs.
Butter	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Frozen whole egg	336 lbs.
Ground rice	7 lbs.
Sausages	11 lbs.
Boiled ham	10 lbs.
Tongue	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Chickens—whole	16

FOOD PREMISES.

Cafes and Restaurants	14
Butchers (including pork butchers)	24
Ice-Cream Vendors	61
Grocers	78
Fishmongers	5
Greengrocers	14
Bakehouses	8
Fish and chip shops	13
Confectioners	19

MEAT.

There was only one slaughterhouse in use during the year and 691 visits were made for the purpose of inspection.

The number of carcasses inspected was 8,178 comprising 1,020 Prime Cattle, 262 Cows, 110 Calves, 5,213 Sheep and Lambs and 1,573 Pigs.

17 whole carcasses and the following organs were found to be unsound or diseased and were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Prime Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1020	262	110	5213	1573
Number inspected ..	1020	262	110	5213	1573

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	7	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	117	51			53
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	11.4%	19.4%	—	1.13%	3.49%

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcasses condemned	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	73	49	—	—	73
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.65%	18.7%	—	—	4.7%

Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected by cysticercus bovis	0.39%	—	—	—	—

**TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CARCASSES
CONDEMNED WITH CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION.**

	CATTLE			SHEEP		
	Whole carcase and all offal	Quarters Hind Fore	Meat	Whole carcase and all offal	Meat	
TUBERCULOSIS	4	—	—	510 lbs.	—	—
ASPHYXIATED	—	—	—	3	—	—
EMACIATION & OEDEMA	—	—	—	1	—	—
EXHAUSTED & BADLY BLED	—	—	—	1	—	—
INJURY	—	—	—	270 lbs.	2	—
CYSTICERCUS BOVIS	4	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	—	—	780	7	—

	CALVES	PIGS
SEPTIC CONDITIONS	—	2

**TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF ORGANS
CONDEMNED WITH CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION.**

	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
LUNGS:				
Tuberculosis	93	—	—	29
Pneumonia	5	—	—	6
Melanosis	3	—	—	—
Abscesses	2	—	—	—
Parasites	14	—	8	—
Total	117	—	8	35
LIVERS:				
Tuberculosis	21	—	—	12
Angioma	7	—	—	—
Abscesses	12	—	—	—
Cirrhosis & Necrosis	13	—	—	19
Fatty Degeneration	4	—	—	—
Distomatosis	112	—	44	—
Cysts	2	—	—	—

Melanosis	1	—	—	—
Adhesions	3	—	—	—
	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	175	—	44	31
	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>

HEADS & TONGUES :

Tuberculosis	62	—	—	43
Actinomyces	3	—	—	—
Abscesses	1	—	—	—
	<hr/>			<hr/>
Total	66			43
	<hr/>			<hr/>

PLUCKS :

Parasites	—	—	12	12
Pneumonia	—	—	—	6
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			12	18
			<hr/>	<hr/>

All the meat and offals condemned are stained green with an indelible dye and then removed for processing into fertilizers.

